(e) Efforts being made on an ongoing basis to improve our trade in the international market include participation in trade fairs, exhibitions, exchange of delegation at both Governmental and business level, establishing Joint Study Groups and Joint Task Force, exchange of information etc.

Indo-Swiss bilateral trade

2583. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Switzerland has shown interest to explore an FTA with India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the current Indo-Swiss bilateral trade; and

(d) what are the details of sectors where Switzerland has shown interest for cooperation with India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) There is presently no proposal from Switzerland to explore FTA with India.

(c) During the calendar year 2005-06 Indo-Swiss bilateral trade was to the tune US$5.3 billion (April-Dec. 2005) of which India's exports were about US$0.3 billion and Switzerland's exports to India were about US $ 5 billion.

(Source:- Director General Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Kolkata)

(d) Switzerland has shown interest in cooperation with India in sectors such as engineering including micro engineering, medical devices, textiles, special protection clothes, agro-processing, tourism, infrastructure and environmental protection technology (waste disposal) and cooperation with Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

Duty on Indian tea in Pakistan

2584. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Tea is subject to 10 percent import duty by Pakistan whereas imports from Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh enjoy zero duty;

(b) if so, whether the matter has been taken up with Pakistan;

(c) if so, the response thereto; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) The matter has been taken up with the Government of Pakistan through the Indian High Commission. Government of Pakistan is yet to respond in the matter.

Misuse of Target Plus Scheme

2585. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the DGFT has withdrawn the Target Plus Scheme due to its misuse by using fictitious documents by some leading and some other exporters;

(b) if so, the details of those exporters who have been probed by the DGFT and the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI);

(c) the details of such schemes and the amount incurred in such cases during the last three years so far; and

(d) the action taken by Government to withdraw these incentives to plug the revenue leakage owing to false claims made by the exporters during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (d) The reward scheme to incentivise the incremental growth in export was started on 01.04.2003 and renamed as Target Plus Scheme on 31st August 2004. The objective of the scheme was to promote exports and reward legitimate incremental export performance beyond 20%, the national target set for export. To check the misuse and abuse of the scheme, government has amended the scheme on 28.01.2004 and thereafter, by making many products and categories ineligible for the reward scheme. Further the Target Plus Scheme has been modified on 20.02.2006 to make high value exports ineligible for the benefits for exports during the year 2005-06. Since the reward scheme